

# Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Federal Assistance Awards Data System* Statistics Users Respondent Base

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U.S. Census Bureau  
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

## I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

### (1) Monthly

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0.0%;	0	None
58.3%;	7	Retail Sales
58.3%;	7	Wholesale Trade
66.7%;	8	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
75.0%;	9	Housing Starts
75.0%;	9	Building Permits
66.7%;	8	New Home Sales
58.3%;	7	Value of New Construction Put in Place
66.7%;	8	Housing Completions
50.0%;	6	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
66.7%;	8	New Residential Construction
50.0%;	6	New Mobile Home Placements
50.0%;	6	Monthly Imports and Exports
58.3%;	7	Current Industrial Reports
50.0%;	6	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

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Replies 12; Forms 13

### (2) Quarterly

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61.5%;	8	Quarterly Financial Report
69.2%;	9	Current Industrial Reports
100.0%;	13	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
46.2%;	6	Quarterly Tax Survey
38.5%;	5	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

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Replies 13; Forms 13

### (3) Annual

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54.5%;	6	Annual Retail Trade
45.5%;	5	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
36.4%;	4	Annual Survey of Communications
45.5%;	5	Transportation Annual Survey
45.5%;	5	Service Annual Survey
90.9%;	10	County Business Patterns

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72.7%;	8	ZIP Code Business Patterns
72.7%;	8	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
54.5%;	6	Characteristics of New Housing
45.5%;	5	Annual Building Permits
45.5%;	5	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
63.6%;	7	Annual Capital Expenditures
72.7%;	8	Annual Survey of Manufactures
72.7%;	8	Current Industrial Reports
45.5%;	5	Research and Development Survey
54.5%;	6	Plant Capacity Utilization
45.5%;	5	Education Finance Survey
54.5%;	6	State Tax Collection Survey
36.4%;	4	Annual Public Employee Retirement
54.5%;	6	Annual Survey of Public Employment
54.5%;	6	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
54.5%;	6	State Government Finances
63.6%;	7	Annual Imports and Exports

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Replies 11; Forms 13

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## II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

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84.6%;	11	Printed Publications	23.1%;	3	Diskettes
69.2%;	9	World Wide Web (Internet)	7.7%;	1	FAX
46.2%;	6	CD-ROMs	7.7%;	1	Other
23.1%;	3	Direct (E-mail) delivery			

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Replies 13; Forms 13

- Internet, ProNet

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(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

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50.0%;	5	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
30.0%;	3	ASCII delimited
20.0%;	2	Do not manipulate data
20.0%;	2	ASCII flat files
20.0%;	2	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
10.0%;	1	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
10.0%;	1	Other

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Replies 10; Forms 13

- [none]

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4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:					
42.9%;	3 5	14.3%;	1 3	0.0%;	0 1
0.0%;	0 4	14.3%;	1 2	28.6%;	2 Don't know
Replies 7; Forms 13					
(7) b. E-mail notification:					
44.4%;	4 5	22.2%;	2 3	0.0%;	0 1
0.0%;	0 4	22.2%;	2 2	11.1%;	1 Don't know
Replies 9; Forms 13					
(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:					
55.6%;	5 5	22.2%;	2 3	0.0%;	0 1
22.2%;	2 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know
Replies 9; Forms 13					
(9) d. Search:					
70.0%;	7 5	10.0%;	1 3	0.0%;	0 1
20.0%;	2 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know
Replies 10; Forms 13					
(10) e. Download complete data sets:					
77.8%;	7 5	11.1%;	1 3	0.0%;	0 1
11.1%;	1 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know
Replies 9; Forms 13					
(11) f. Download selected data:					
77.8%;	7 5	11.1%;	1 3	0.0%;	0 1
11.1%;	1 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know
Replies 9; Forms 13					
(12) g. Software help/tutorials:					
55.6%;	5 5	11.1%;	1 3	11.1%;	1 1
22.2%;	2 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know
Replies 9; Forms 13					
(13) h. Publication-quality printing:					
44.4%;	4 5	33.3%;	3 3	0.0%;	0 1
22.2%;	2 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know
Replies 9; Forms 13					

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(14) i. Charts and graphs:

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54.5%;	6 5	18.2%;	2 3	9.1%;	1 1
18.2%;	2 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know

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Replies 11; Forms 13

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(15) j. Geographic maps:

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80.0%;	8 5	0.0%;	0 3	0.0%;	0 1
10.0%;	1 4	10.0%;	1 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know

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Replies 10; Forms 13

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(16) k. Other, please specify:

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Replies 0; Forms 13

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- [none]
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(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

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0.0%;	0 5	0.0%;	0 3	0.0%;	0 1
0.0%;	0 4	0.0%;	0 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know

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Replies 0; Forms 13

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### III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

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36.4%;	4 No	63.6%;	7 Yes
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Replies 11; Forms 13

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(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

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72.7%;	8 latest 1 or 2 periods	54.5%;	6 trends up to 1 year
72.7%;	8 trends up to 5 years	0.0%;	0 Other
63.6%;	7 5+ years		

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Replies 11; Forms 13

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(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

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50.0%;	5 Perform patron/client inquiries
40.0%;	4 Create value-added products/services
30.0%;	3 Republish in newspaper/journal
20.0%;	2 Inform marketing decisions
10.0%;	1 Inform investment decisions
10.0%;	1 Locate new sites
10.0%;	1 Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
0.0%;	0 Other

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Replies 10; Forms 13

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- [none]
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(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

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88.9%;	8	Sampling and estimation methodology
88.9%;	8	Definition of terms
77.8%;	7	Survey design
77.8%;	7	Narrative text describing survey results
0.0%;	0	Other

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Replies 9; Forms 13

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- [none]
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(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

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- Non-residential building permit data.
  - No.
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#### IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

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70.0%;	7	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
70.0%;	7	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
60.0%;	6	3-digit industry groups
50.0%;	5	2-digit major groups
0.0%;	0	Other

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Replies 10; Forms 13

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- [none]
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(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

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22.2%;	2	I was unaware of this
11.1%;	1	I am partially aware, but lack details
66.7%;	6	I am aware and understand some implications

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Replies 9; Forms 13

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12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

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100.0%;	9	A brochure that explains NAICS	44.4%;	4	Conference announcements
77.8%;	7	NAICS implementation plans	0.0%;	0	Other

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Replies 9; Forms 13

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- [none]
- 

(27) No Thanks -

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100.0%;	2	I will check the Census Bureau's web site ( <a href="http://www.census.gov/naics">www.census.gov/naics</a> )
0.0%;	0	I don't need more information about NAICS

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Replies 2; Forms 13

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## V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

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33.3%;	4	Business	8.3%;	1	Individual
25.0%;	3	Government	8.3%;	1	Media
16.7%;	2	Academic/Research	8.3%;	1	Other

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Replies 12; Forms 13

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- Library (University
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(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

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54.5%;	6	Yes	45.5%;	5	No
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Replies 11; Forms 13

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(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

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54.5%;	6	None	9.1%;	1	Business/Industry Data Center
9.1%;	1	State Data Center	27.3%;	3	Other

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Replies 11; Forms 13

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- Government
  - Congress
  - GPO Depository
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(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

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90.0%;	9	Yes	10.0%;	1	No
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Replies 10; Forms 13

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(36) Question 21. Remarks:

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- Respondent provided voluminous, illegible comments throughout that could not be deciphered to record.
- Census is always quick and dependable. Great job!
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.

Figure 1: